# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# LAW AND JUSTICE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4392
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2016
Judge-Population Ratio
Lokhande Shri Sadashiv Kisan

**Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has made or proposes to make any assessment of the judge-population ratio in the country; and
(b) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE FOR LAW AND JUSTICE AND ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY)

(a) and (b): The Law Commission in its 245th Report did not consider the judge population ratio to be a scientific criterion for determining the adequacy of the judge strength in the country. The Law Commission found that in the absence of complete and scientific approach to data collection across various High Courts in the country, the "Rate of Disposal" method to calculate the number of additional judges required to clear the backlog of case as well as to ensure that new backlog is not created, is more pragmatic and useful.

In May, 2014, the Supreme Court asked the State Governments and the High Courts to file their response to the recommendations made by the Law Commission. In August 2014, the Supreme Court asked the National Court Management System Committee (NCMS) to examine the recommendations made by the Law Commission and to furnish their recommendations in this regard. The NCMS submitted its report to the Supreme Court in March, 2016. It has, inter-alia, observed that in the long term, the judge strength of the subordinate courts will have to be assessed by a scientific method to determine the total number of "Judicial Hours" required for disposing of the case load of each court. In the interim, this Committee has proposed a "weighted" disposal approach − disposal weighted by the nature and complexity of cases in local conditions. The matter is sub-judice before the Supreme Court.